

Hello, my name is Randy Weber and I live near Kingsley Michigan, a small farming community just south of Traverse City. My family has been camping in the Pigeon River Country for approximately 25 years. We now have four generations camping together.

In October of 2007, we spent over 30,000 dollars to purchase property near the northwest corner of the P.R.C. Because of the restrictions placed on the number of camping units with horses prevented our family from camping together.

In March of 2008, the Traverse City Record Eagle ran an article stating that the P.R.C. could soon be closed to horses except for riding on county roads, some designated trails and the Elk Hill Trail Camp. This was the first we had heard of this action by the D.N.R..

On May 8th of 2008, the order was signed and our ¾ of a mile ride on horseback to reach the P.R.C. state forest became a six or eight mile truck and trailer ride to get to the interior.

Recently, I was in Wolverine at the hardware store talking to the owner, Dennis Fiolek. One of his statements to me was "There's no jobs here, no money, people are leaving left and right. If I could sell this place, I'd be gone too."

Last week, I spoke to Ernie Elley who lives between Wolverine and Vanderbilt. Last summer, he made hay on part of our property as he has done for many years. I asked if he would be making hay again this summer, and his statement was: "I'm sitting on a thousand bales yet, the horse people stopped coming, I just don't know."

With the loss of dollars due to closing the P.R.C. to horses, there is no doubt it has caused hard times in an already strained economy. Is this the straw that breaks the camels back?

In summary, we ask that the stranglehold the D.N.R. has on the way of life in the P.R.C. and surrounding areas be released, given back to the people, by the people, for the people. Thank you

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